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Implementing Asset-Based Community Development: A Case Study from the Philippines

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements
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ABSTRACT

Within the alternative development paradigm, needs-based models have been critiqued for the part they play in accentuating local deficiency and thereby increasing dependency on externally-driven development. The asset-based approach to community development (ABCD) has been presented as a capacities-focused alternative, aimed at establishing community-driven development and promoting authentic local empowerment.

This thesis presents a case study into ABCD as it has been applied in a developing country context, analysing it in relationship to some of the theoretical premises of the approach and the wider development literature. The research, undertaken on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, describes how the ABCD model was implemented and adapted to local circumstances. The findings indicate that the ABCD intervention resulted in improvements within the case study community, particularly pertaining to the expansion of community facilities, livelihood choices, household incomes, individual and collective motivation, and community pride.

Overall, this study endorses ABCD as an effective approach to development in the developing world, while at the same time highlighting issues associated with its implementation. Questions are also raised regarding three global development themes that emerged in the course of the study, namely the development of capacity, the management of social process and the meaning of empowerment.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABCD	Asset-Based Community Development
ANEC	Affiliated Non-Conventional Energy Centre
BCC	Basic Christian Communities
BBC	Barangay Bayanga Council
BEC	Basic Ecclesiastical Communities
BDC	Barangay Development Council
CART	Centre for Appropriate Rural Technology (XUCA)
CCFT	Christian Children's Fund Taiwan
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (United States of America)
CO	Community Organiser
CSFLO	Child Sponsorship Family Liaison Officer
DA	Department of Agriculture (Philippines)
DANCHURCHAID	Danish Church Aid (Denmark)
DE	Department of Education (Philippines)
DOH	Department of Health (Philippines)
DSWD	Dept of Social Welfare and Development (Philippines)
FTC	Food Technology Centre (XUCA)
HPI	Heifer Project International
KIs	Key Informants
KKP	Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana (Christian Community Involvement)
MICODA	Midkiwan Community Development Association
MYMA	Midkiwan Youth Movement Association
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SAC	Sustainable Agriculture Centre (XUCA)
SEARSOLIN	South East Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (XUCA)
SLF	Sustainable Livelihoods Framework
XSF	Xavier Science Foundation (XU)
XU	Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
XUCA	Xavier University College of Agriculture